



Australian Government
Australian Law Reform Commission

BUDGET 2022-23

(Extract from the Attorney-General's
portfolio budget papers)



Australian Law Reform Commission

Section 1: Entity overview and resources

1.1 Strategic direction statement

The Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), established in 1975, undertakes research and provides recommendations to reform the law on topics selected by the Attorney-General of Australia.

The ALRC's outcome is: 'Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education.' The ALRC has one program to achieve its outcome: 'Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform.'

Through the improvement of Australia's law and justice framework, the ALRC contributes to the Attorney-General Department's Outcome 1 — a just and secure society through the maintenance and improvement of Australia's law and justice frameworks.

There are no new measures affecting the ALRC or new functions.

The key challenge and risk to the ALRC delivering its program is that the ALRC is solely reliant on the government for its referrals. As a result, the extent to which the ALRC can deliver on its objective is influenced from year to year by the government's law reform agenda, the number of inquiries referred to the ALRC, the subject matter and scope of any particular inquiry, the prescribed timeframe and the resources made available to the ALRC to undertake the work.

1.2 Entity resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total funding from all sources available to the ALRC for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the government.

The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome (government strategic policy objectives) and by administered (on behalf of the government or the public) and departmental (for the entity's operations) classification.

For more detailed information on special accounts and special appropriations, refer to Budget Paper No. 4: Agency Resourcing.

Information in this table is presented on a resourcing (appropriations/cash available) basis, while the 'budgeted expenses by outcome' tables in section 2 and the financial statements in section 3 are presented on an accrual basis.

Table 1.1: Australian Law Reform Commission resource statement — budget estimates for 2022-23 as at Budget March 2022

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Estimate \$'000
DEPARTMENTAL		
Annual appropriations — ordinary annual services (a)		
Departmental appropriation (b)	2,625	2,648
s74 retained revenue receipts (c)	401	1
Departmental capital budget (d)	15	15
Total departmental annual appropriations	3,041	2,664
Special accounts (e)		
Opening balance	982	982
Appropriation receipts (f)	2,625	2,648
Appropriation receipts from other entities (g)	401	1
Total special accounts	4,008	3,631
Less departmental appropriations drawn from annual or special appropriations and credited to special accounts	(3,041)	(2,664)
Total net resourcing for entity	4,008	3,631
	2021-22	2022-23
Average staffing level (number)	10	10

Prepared on a resourcing (appropriations and cash available) basis.

Note: All figures are GST exclusive and may not match figures in the cash flow statement.

(a) Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2022-23.

(b) Excludes departmental capital budget.

(c) Estimated External Revenue receipts under section 74 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

(d) Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill No. 1, and form part of ordinary annual services items. Refer to Table 3.5 for further details. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

(e) Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys and other special accounts. See Table 2.1 for further information on outcome and program expenses broken down by various funding sources, such as annual appropriations, special appropriations and special accounts.

(f) Amounts credited to the special account from ALRC's annual appropriations.

(g) Amounts credited to the special account from another entity's annual and special appropriations.

1.3 Budget measures

ALRC has no measures announced after the 2021-22 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook. For this reason, Table 1.2 is not presented.

Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government entities achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Entities are required to identify the programs which contribute to government outcomes over the budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs. The following provides detailed information on expenses for each outcome and program, further broken down by funding source.

Note:

Performance reporting requirements in the Portfolio Budget Statements are part of the Commonwealth performance framework established by the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. It is anticipated that the performance criteria described in Portfolio Budget Statements will be read with broader information provided in an entity's corporate plans and annual performance statements — included in annual reports — to provide a complete picture of an entity's planned and actual performance.

The most recent corporate plan for ALRC can be found at:
<https://www.alrc.gov.au/about/corporate-information/>

The most recent annual performance statement can be found at:
<https://www.alrc.gov.au/about/annual-reports/>

2.1 Budgeted expenses and performance for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education.

Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.1 shows how much ALRC intends to spend (on an accrual basis) on achieving Outcome 1, broken down by program, as well as by administered and departmental funding sources.

Table 2.1.1: Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
Program 1.1: Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform					
DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES					
Special accounts					
Law Reform Special Account — <i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 s80 (Australian Law Reform Commission Act 1996 s45)</i>	3,026	2,649	2,664	2,684	2,702
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year (a)	75	67	59	50	50
Total expenses for program 1.1	3,101	2,716	2,723	2,734	2,752

	2021-22	2022-23
Average staffing level (number) (h)	10	10

(a) Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year are made up of depreciation and amortisation expenses and audit fees.

Note: Departmental appropriation splits and totals are indicative estimates and may change in the course of the budget year as government priorities change.

Performance measure for Outcome 1

Table 2.1.2 details the performance measures for each program associated with Outcome 1. It also provides the related key activities as expressed in the current corporate plan where further detail is provided about the delivery of the activities related to the program, the context in which these activities are delivered and how the performance of these activities will be measured.

Table 2.1.2: Performance measure for Outcome 1

Outcome 1: Informed government decisions about the development, reform and harmonisation of Australian laws and related processes through research, analysis, reports and community consultation and education.		
Program 1.1: Conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform.		
This program contributes to Outcome 1 through conducting inquiries into aspects of Australian law and related processes for the purpose of law reform.		
Key activities	The ALRC will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct law reform inquiries as referred by the Attorney-General; produce a final report containing recommendations for law reform for each inquiry; and encourage public debate and discussion on the work of the ALRC and law reform generally. The target group for the ALRC's program is the Australian Parliament and the Australian community.	
Year	Performance measures	Expected performance results
Current year 2021-22	Number of reports Timeliness of reports Citations or references Submissions received per inquiry Consultations held per inquiry Presentations, articles and speaking engagements E-news subscribers Visitors to website Public attendance at ALRC seminars	4 100% 100 50 25 25 1350 500,000 250
Year	Performance measures	Planned performance results
Budget year 2022-23	Number of reports Timeliness of reports Citations or references Submissions received per inquiry Consultations held per inquiry Presentations, articles and speaking engagements E-news subscribers Visitors to website Public attendance at ALRC seminars	4 100% 100 50 25 25 1350 500,000 250
Forward estimates 2023-26	As per 2022-23	As per 2022-23

Section 3: Budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of entity finances for the 2022-23 budget year, including the impact of budget measures and resourcing on financial statements.

3.1 Budgeted financial statements

3.1.1 Differences between entity resourcing and financial statements

There is no material difference between the entity resourcing and financial statements. ALRC has no related party transactions.

3.1.2 Explanatory notes and analysis of budgeted financial statements

Total revenue in 2022-23 is estimated to be \$2.690 million, comprising \$2.648 million from government and \$0.042 million from other sources.

Expenses in 2022-23 are estimated to be \$2.716 million, comprising \$2.129 million in employee expenses, \$0.391 million in supplier expenses, \$0.175 million in depreciation and amortisation expenses, and \$0.021 million in finance expenses.

3.2. Budgeted financial statements tables**Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June**

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
EXPENSES					
Employee benefits	2,127	2,129	2,138	2,138	2,138
Suppliers	775	391	393	407	425
Depreciation and amortisation	175	175	175	175	175
Finance costs	24	21	17	14	14
Total expenses	3,101	2,716	2,723	2,734	2,752
LESS:					
OWN-SOURCE INCOME					
Own-source revenue					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	401	1	1	1	1
Total own-source revenue	401	1	1	1	1
Gains					
Other — resources received free of charge	41	41	41	41	41
Total gains	41	41	41	41	41
Total own-source income	442	42	42	42	42
Net (cost of)/contribution by services	(2,659)	(2,674)	(2,681)	(2,692)	(2,710)
Revenue from government	2,625	2,648	2,663	2,683	2,701
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Australian Government	(34)	(26)	(18)	(9)	(9)
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	(34)	(26)	(18)	(9)	(9)
Total comprehensive income/(loss) attributable to the Australian Government	(34)	(26)	(18)	(9)	(9)

Table 3.1 continued over page

Table 3.1: Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June (continued)**Note: Impact of net cash appropriation arrangements**

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) as per the statement of comprehensive income	(34)	(26)	(18)	(9)	(9)
plus: depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) (a)	16	16	16	16	16
plus: depreciation/amortisation expenses for ROU assets (b)	159	159	159	159	159
less: lease principal repayments (b)	141	149	157	166	166
Net cash operating surplus/(deficit)	-	-	-	-	-

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

- (a) From 2010-11, the government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements. Bill (No. 1) revenue appropriations for the depreciation and amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities (and select corporate Commonwealth entities) were replaced with a separate capital budget (the departmental capital budget, or DCB) provided through Bill (No. 1) equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, see Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement.
- (b) Applies to leases under AASB 16 Leases.

Table 3.2: Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
ASSETS					
Financial assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	982	982	982	982	982
Trade and other receivables	30	30	30	30	30
Total financial assets	1,012	1,012	1,012	1,012	1,012
Non-financial assets					
Land and buildings	1,061	902	743	584	425
Property, plant and equipment	44	43	42	41	40
Intangibles	14	14	14	14	14
Total non-financial assets	1,119	959	799	639	479
Total assets	2,131	1,971	1,811	1,651	1,491
LIABILITIES					
Payables					
Suppliers	54	54	54	54	54
Total payables	54	54	54	54	54
Interest-bearing liabilities					
Leases	1,072	923	766	600	434
Total interest-bearing liabilities	1,072	923	766	600	434
Provisions					
Employee provisions	353	353	353	353	353
Total provisions	353	353	353	353	353
Total liabilities	1,479	1,330	1,173	1,007	841
Net assets	652	641	638	644	650
EQUITY (a)					
Parent entity interest					
Contributed equity	349	364	379	394	409
Reserves	137	137	137	137	137
Retained surplus/(accumulated deficit)	166	140	122	113	104
Total parent entity interest	652	641	638	644	650
Total equity	652	641	638	644	650

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Equity is the residual interest in assets after the deduction of liabilities.

Table 3.3: Departmental statement of changes in equity – summary of movement (budget year 2022-23)

	Retained earnings \$'000	Asset revaluation reserve \$'000	Contributed equity/ capital \$'000	Total equity \$'000
Opening balance as at 1 July 2022				
Balance carried forward from previous period	166	137	349	652
Adjusted opening balance	166	137	349	652
Comprehensive income				
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(26)	-	-	(26)
Total comprehensive income	(26)	-	-	(26)
Transactions with owners				
Departmental capital budget	-	-	15	15
Sub-total transactions with owners	-	-	15	15
Estimated closing balance as at 30 June 2023	140	137	364	641
Closing balance attributable to the Australian Government	140	137	364	641

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.4: Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Sale of goods and rendering of services	401	1	1	1	1
Appropriations	3,025	2,648	2,663	2,683	2,701
Total cash received	3,426	2,649	2,664	2,684	2,702
Cash used					
Employees	2,127	2,129	2,138	2,138	2,138
Suppliers	1,134	350	352	366	384
Interest payments on lease liability	24	21	17	14	14
Total cash used	3,285	2,500	2,507	2,518	2,536
Net cash from/(used by) operating activities	141	149	157	166	166
INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Cash used					
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangibles	15	15	15	15	15
Total cash used	15	15	15	15	15
Net cash from/(used by) investing activities	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Cash received					
Contributed equity	15	15	15	15	15
Total cash received	15	15	15	15	15
Cash used					
Principle payments on lease liability	141	149	157	166	166
Total cash used	141	149	157	166	166
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities	(126)	(134)	(142)	(151)	(151)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	982	982	982	982	982
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	982	982	982	982	982

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.5: Departmental capital budget statement (for the period ended 30 June)

	2021-22 Estimated actual \$'000	2022-23 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Forward estimate \$'000	2024-25 Forward estimate \$'000	2025-26 Forward estimate \$'000
NEW CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS					
Capital budget — Bill 1 (DCB)	15	15	15	15	15
Total new capital appropriations	15	15	15	15	15
Provided for:					
Purchase of non-financial assets	15	15	15	15	15
Total items	15	15	15	15	15
PURCHASE OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS					
Funded by capital appropriation — DCB (a)	15	15	15	15	15
Total purchases of non-financial assets	15	15	15	15	15
RECONCILIATION OF CASH USED TO ACQUIRE ASSETS TO ASSET MOVEMENT TABLE					
Total purchases	15	15	15	15	15
Total cash used to acquire assets	15	15	15	15	15

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) Does not include annual finance lease costs. Includes purchases from current and previous years' departmental capital budgets (DCBs).

Table 3.6: Statement of departmental asset movements (budget year 2022-23)

	Buildings \$'000	Other property, plant & equipment \$'000	Computer software & intangibles \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2022				
Gross book value	66	61	22	149
Gross book value — ROU assets	1,472	-	-	1,472
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(17)	(8)	(25)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment — ROU assets	(477)	-	-	(477)
Opening net book balance	1,061	44	14	1,119
CAPITAL ASSET ADDITIONS				
Estimated expenditure on new or replacement assets				
By purchase — appropriation ordinary annual services (a)	-	15	-	15
Total additions	-	15	-	15
Other movements				
Depreciation/amortisation expense	-	(16)	-	(16)
Depreciation/amortisation on ROU assets	(159)	-	-	(159)
Total other movements	(159)	(16)	-	(175)
As at 30 June 2023				
Gross book value	66	76	22	164
Gross book value — ROU assets	1,472	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment	-	(33)	(8)	(41)
Accumulated depreciation/amortisation and impairment — ROU assets	(636)	-	-	(636)
Closing net book balance	902	43	14	959

Prepared on Australian Accounting Standards basis.

(a) 'Appropriation ordinary annual services' refers to funding provided through Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2022-23 for depreciation and amortisation expenses, departmental capital budgets or other operational expenses.